



SHIRK, I.E., POLYTHEISM, IS THE WORST THING IN THE SIGHT OF ALLĀH TA'ĀLĀ

By Mufti Abdullah Moolla



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<https://maktabahimamghazali.blogspot.com/2022/08/shirk-ie-polytheism-is-worst-thing-in.html>

The worst of sins is Shirk. This sin is described as unforgivable. Why is this the case? One of the reasons explained by the scholars is that Allāh Ta'ālā gives life to a person in a pure and natural state; without any trace of disbelief and polytheism. Man goes about tainting this pure state and hence it is counted as very severe, severe to the point where a person is not forgiven for it. The terrible repercussions of Shirk are experienced in this life as well as in the afterlife.

In addition to the multitude of verses of the Noble Qur'ān, there are many Aḥādīth that detail the severity of Shirk. Hereunder a list of Aḥādīth detailing this is presented. We hope in the mercy of Allāh Ta'ālā, that may He save everyone from falling into any form of Shirk.

Ḥadīth 1:

Sayyidunā 'Abdullāh Ibn Mas'ūd raḍiyallāhu 'anhu reports that he asked, "O Messenger of Allāh, which is the gravest sin?" He replied, "That you ascribe a partner to the Being that created you." "Then?" asked Sayyidunā 'Abdullāh Ibn Mas'ūd raḍiyallāhu 'anhu, "You kill your child out of fear that he will eat with you" replied Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam. "Then?" "You commit adultery with the wife of your neighbour." [1]

Ḥadīth 2:

Sayyidunā Abū Ad-Dardā' raḍiyallāhu 'anhu reports, "My friend, i.e., Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam, advised me: "Do not ascribe any partner to Allāh, even if you are cut to pieces and burnt. Do not willfully abandon the Farḍ Ṣalāh. Whoever will willfully abandon Ṣalāh, Allāh Ta'ālā is free from responsibility to him. Do not drink (intoxicants) because it is the key to all evil."[2]

Ḥadīth 3:

Sayyidunā Abū Dhar raḍiyallāhu 'anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "Allāh Ta'ālā will forgive the sins of a person as long as he does not tear the veil (of His mercy)." The companions asked, "What is the veil?" He said, "The veil is where a person passes away with the belief of Shirk."[3]

Ḥadīth 4:

Sayyidunā Abū Dhar raḍiyallāhu 'anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "He who meets Allāh without ascribing a partner to Him, Allāh will forgive him even if he has a mountain of sins on his head."[4]

Ḥadīth 5:

Sayyidunā Ibn 'Abbās raḍiyallāhu 'anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu 'alayhi wa sallam said, "Allāh says, 'He who has the conviction that I have the power to forgive all sins, I shall forgive as long as he does not ascribe any partner to Me, i.e., commit Shirk and I am independent."[5]

Ḥadīth 6:

Sayyidunā Abū Hurayrah raḍiyallāhu `anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu `alayhi wa sallam said, "The doors of Jannah are opened on Mondays and Thursdays. Every person who does not ascribe a partner to Allāh is forgiven, except the one who has malice in his heart for his brother. It is said about these two: 'Leave their matter until they reconcile.'"[6]

Ḥadīth 7:

Sayyidunā `Auf Ibn Mālik raḍiyallāhu `anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu `alayhi wa sallam said, "An angel from my Rabb came to me and gave me a choice; if I want, half my Ummah can enter Jannah and if I want, I can intercede for my Ummah. This intercession will be for every person that passed away without ascribing any partner to Allāh, i.e., without committing Shirk."[7]

Jannah is for those who do not commit Shirk

Sayyidunā Abū Ayyūb Al-Anṣārī raḍiyallāhu `anhu reports that Rasūlullāh ṣallallāhu `alayhi wa sallam said, "He who dies without ascribing a partner to Allāh will enter Jannah."[8]

[1] Ṣaḥīḥ Bukhārī

[2] Ibn Mājah

[3] Kitāb Al-Ba'th wan Nushūr

[4] Aḥmad

[5] Sharḥ As-Sunnah

[6] Ṣaḥīḥ Muslim

[7] Tirmidhī, Ibn Mājah

[8] Aḥmad